

VOLUME 24—NUMBER 31.

LATE NEWS

GROSS INCOME BLANKS READY
Indianapolis, Dec. 31.—Gilbert K. Hewitt, state gross income tax director, said today taxpayers will be able to secure their gross income tax forms from automobile license branches Monday.

Jan. 31 is the final day for filing the returns, Hewitt said, for persons making over \$1,000 a year. He said the total shipment of forms amounted to 12 tons.

VICHY IMPOSES CURFEW

London.—Vichy police prepared to impose an early curfew throughout France tonight in the hope of averting all upsurge in the pre-invasion wave of terrorism which is sweeping the country with unprecedented intensity.

The Vichy government, openly apprehensive over the gathering strength of the organized underground movement, ordered the closing of all public meeting places by 10:30 tonight throughout the country, the Vichy radio reported. No vehicular traffic will be permitted between 11 p. m. and 5 a. m.

36 OF CREW RESCUED

London.—Authoritative sources reported today that only 36 members of the Scharnhorst crew—earlier reported by the Vichy radio to number 1,460—survived the sinking of the German battleship off North Cape last Sunday.

UNABLE TO SAVE CHILD

Sikeston, Mo.—Air Cadet Denis Matthews, Griffith, Ind., whose invalid sister has reportedly refused food since hearing her brother's voice over the telephone two weeks ago, said today that he had not requested a furlough to see the 13-year-old child.

According to 1st Lt. Donald T. Beaman, of the Sikeston air base, Matthews talked with his mother early today and both agreed that Matthews' visit would not save the child's life and a furlough now being prevented the young cadet from being graduated with his class.

1943 ASSEMBLY IS MOST COSTLY

However, Gov. Schricker Did His Part To Keep Taxes Down

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 3.—Following adjournment of the 1943 session of the Indiana general assembly we termed it one of the most costly on record, and while the Republicans who controlled the legislature were talking about "economy and efficiency," we suggested that the full cost of the session would not be known until taxpayers began getting their bills. The bill is available now, in the notice to taxpayers of tax levies being published by the various county treasurers, and the picture isn't too pretty.

With the expense of the war, a great plea was made to keep local expenses at a minimum. But the various salary-grab measures jammed through by the Republican legislators, including measures raising their own incomes, didn't fit into the plan very well. Instead of local taxes, as might have been expected, Indiana property owners next year will pay \$108,467,100 in property taxes. That's an increase of \$7,598,000 over 1943.

Gov. Henry F. Schricker did his part to keep state taxes down. At his request, a property tax levy for the state general fund was eliminated, and the only property taxes going to the state will be those fixed by statute for such things as the World War Memorial, Teachers' Retirement Fund, etc. The reduction made by the governor will save \$436,000 next year alone. A total of four cents has been chopped from the state levy during the three years Henry F. Schricker has been governor and total savings in the three years amount to nearly \$2,000,000.

But for action of taxpayers themselves, the increase in local property taxes next year would have been much greater than the eight million dollars. The increase would have been approximately \$15,000,000 had the officials had their way, but actions of adjustment boards and Gov. Schricker's tax board pared the bill more than \$7,000,000. The increase is not in state taxes—it is in local taxes. And isn't it interesting to consider that 71 percent of the local official in Indiana—city, township and county—are now Republican? County commissioners, who spent more of the county funds for instance, are Republican by a margin of 674 to 72.

Republican trustees number 278 and Democratic 338; 74 of the 102 mayors are Republican. The legislature is heavily Republican. Now, who's to blame for the higher taxes?

THE POST-DEMOCRAT

The Only Democratic Paper In Delaware County Carrying the Union Label

MUNCIE, INDIANA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1943



PRICE: FIVE CENTS

So Called "Farm Bloc" Is Enemy To The U.S. Farmer

Congress Fails To Do Anything for Small, Independent Farmer—In Pre-War Days Roosevelt Did a Lot for Farmers By Making Life Livable for Him—Little Farmer Must Have Full Opportunity—He Is the Foundation of the Nation.

Although the little farmer's worst enemy is the Congressional farm bloc, he knows next to nothing about it and how it works. He has a hazy idea that anything the farm bloc does is in his interests. Exactly the reverse is the fact. The farm bloc is a close organization of senators and representatives. It is probably the strongest of many congressional blocs. It is composed in part of men from states that have large industrial farm interests. It represents mass production of farm animals, fruit, poultry and other produce. It is the tool in Congress of the great industrial farmer whose interests are directly opposed to those of the small independent farmer.

The industrial farmer has it all over the little farmer. He owns thousands, hundreds of thousands of acres. He is a capitalist with unlimited reserve funds to tide him over adversity. He has the money to hire specialists to buy farm machinery and fertilizer. He has no mortgage to keep him awake at night. He spends most of his time in New York or California or Washington. He may even be a senator or representative.

The industrial or capitalist farmer controls transportation. When his specialized crop is ready for market he can get it conveyed to the dealers at minimum cost, in special refrigerated cars. He owns large refrigerated storage houses where he can quick freeze most any product and so preserve it indefinitely until he can get his price for it. He is so powerful that he can control market prices, and does. Moreover he can control federal legislation in his interest, and does through the farm bloc, which he owns.

You don't have to tell the little independent farmer what his difficulties are—he knows them and they are many. When the crops come in he has to dump them wherever he can at whatever price he can get. He has to struggle with debt and when he has a bad year he may lose his farm and all the labor and hope he has put into it. He may have to give up and go to work for the industrial farmer—ah, now we see some light!

Farm labor is mostly manual. There are times when the industrial farmer is up against a shortage of labor. He would like very well to have the labor necessary for all purposes living permanently on his land. He will offer a bankrupt farmer a house, garden plot, cow and two hogs and up to \$60 a month. To keep that sort of labor employed the year around he is going in for the operation of small factory units on his land where staple products can be

manufactured from a lot of things from soybeans to corn stalks. During the slack season he can make factory hands of his farm hands. The little farmer, broke, may be forced to hire out to the industrial farmer.

What is Congress doing for the small, independent farmer today? Not a thing. Its every effort is in favor of the industrial farmer, the little farmer's hard competitor. The farm bloc is so powerful that it controls the majority in Congress by various legislative trading devices and deals and pressure measures. Let the little farmer go to Washington to see his senator or representative and he will get about as far as the general outer office and girl office buffer.

Back in the days when President Roosevelt did not have a great war on his hands he succeeded in doing a lot for the little farmers. He got legislation passed in their favor. He fixed it so that the little farmer could refinance his ruinous mortgage at easy terms and borrow money at low rates to tide him over periods of adversity. He set up commissions, administrations and boards that worked in the interest of the little farmer. He made life livable for him and gave him full hope for the future.

Now things are different. The House of Representatives is almost equally Democratic and Republican. A large majority of the Republicans are of the Old Guard, big money class, in favor of monopolies. They are joined by a sufficient number of Old Guard Democrats to do about as they wish. They look down upon and despise the little farmer. They are for the industrial farmer. They belong to the farm bloc.

There isn't much the President can do about it. He is on the way to being overpowered by the big interests in many ways, while he

(Continued on Page Two)

CONGRESS FAILS THE NATION

The 78th Congress is nearing the close of its first year with a record of failure to meet high national needs.

With complete inconsistency, except for yielding in turn to each momentary pressure, a shifting majority has irresponsibly fought control of farm prices and irresponsibly passed a bad anti-labor law in the Smith-Connally Act.

Congress says, at one moment, that the people are unable to pay \$10,000,000,000 in new taxes, and cuts down the Treasury program. It says, a moment later, that the people easily can afford additional billions in inflated food prices, which virtually every economist agrees will result if subsidies are eliminated.

Congress refuses even to consider an extension of social security, which would blot up "inflationary" spending by taxing wage-earners and broaden the security system as eventually it must be broadened. It plays politics for months with the fathers-draft issue, in the end passing a bill which has little effect save further to confuse the people.

Congress is called upon to pass measures giving 10,000,000 men and women in the fighting services a feasible method of voting in the next presidential election. Republicans don't want this because they fear that most soldiers would vote for Mr. Roosevelt if he runs again. Southern Democrats don't want it because it would infringe their precious poll tax. The result: An unholy alliance of the two groups hypocritically tells the Green-Lucas bill.

On issue after issue, partisan, sectional or pressure-group interests win over the imperative needs of a democracy in crisis. A number of progressive groups, before the last election, campaigned for what they called a "Congress to win the war." They were beaten at the polls, and we have a Congress which, in the midst of war, cynically betrays the public interest.

Little would be gained by abusing the legislature. Its members are a reflection of the people who elected them or were too lazy to vote—neither better nor worse than the inflated incompetents who, in the crisis after the Civil War, tried to "bind up the nation's wounds" by impeaching Andrew Johnson.

But we must face, within the relatively near future, another postwar crisis infinitely more complicated than the Civil War's reconstruction days. How can we meet the enormous problems of world reconstruction, and America's proper place in them, if every congressional decision is made on the basis of sectional and pressure-bloc interests? We shall need, and must bend our utmost efforts to obtain, a Congress able to think nationally and function responsibly. The selection of senators and representatives capable of meeting such standards rivals in importance the choice of a President next year. Meantime, the present Congress can reform if it will. Can it not recognize that its irresponsibility is a luxury beyond the means of the nation?—Chicago Sun.

Gen. Geo. Marshall "Man of the Year"

New York, Dec. 31.—Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U. S. Army, has been selected by the editors of Time as the "man of the year" because of transforming a "worse than disarmed U. S. into the world's most effective military power," the magazine announced today.

Readers submitted numerous candidates including Marshall, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Premier Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

"The link between the biggest military establishment in U. S. history and the U. S. people, George C. Marshall was at year's end the closest thing to the 'indispensable man,'" the magazine said.

CHANGE IN CO. OFFICES JAN. 1

Appointments Will Be Named Following Organization Meet

Tomorrow, New Year's day, one Delaware county commissioner, James Landess, Democrat, completes his three year term of office on that board while Thad Witt, Republican, begins his first term and causes the majority control of that board to be Republican. Orville Ebrite will continue another year as county commissioner and during 1944 the board will be the lone Democrat member while Hugh Botkin, Republican, has two more years to finish his present term. Also, Sam Gray, Democrat sheriff who has served the past two years, will relinquish his office to Charles Snodgrass who begins his first term in office during 1944. The board of county commissioners have already announced the appointments of Paul Benbow as county road superintendent, Robert Long to be county attorney, and Victor Bruell as attorney for the poor.

Other appointments which include courthouse custodians and physicians for the various county institutions will be named following the organization meeting of the new board of commissioners. Botkin will become president of the board succeeding Ebrite who has served in that capacity during the past year. Judge Clarence Higley will have the appointment of the court riding bailiff for 1944 since Judge Paul Lenington of Superior court had his choice during 1943. Wendell Stogsdill has served as riding bailiff for both courts during the past year.

All other county offices will begin the new year with the same personnel. Jesse Green, county clerk, starts his second four-year term in that office. Lester E. Holloway, county treasurer, will serve another year in that office which will complete his second two-year term and the limit of continuous service for treasurer. Together with Judge Higley, Holloway will be the remaining Democrat office holder in the courthouse during 1944.

Arthur C. Clynne, Republican, and Earl Everett, Democrat, were appointed by Judge Higley as jury commissioners for the circuit court of Delaware county.

WARNS OF 'NEXT WAR'

Boulder, Colo.—The acting president of Colorado University, Dr. E. G. Stevenson, says that the peoples of the world had better learn to live in peace after this war if they intend to live at all. Dr. Gustavson says scientists now are developing explosives so powerful that three bombs could wipe a city the size of London off the map. A nationally-known chemist himself, the doctor says science is developing what he calls a "blueprint of hell" for the next war.

HONOR ROLL SELECTED

Chicago.—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Vice-President Henry A. Wallace and Wendell L. Willkie were among those selected today in the honor roll of 1943 compiled by the Chicago Defender, a weekly Negro newspaper.

The paper said the honor roll listed "honest, fearless men and women—some white, some colored—who have battled against barriers of prejudice to see that this great nation of ours truly represents the land of opportunity for Negroes as well as others."

You might as well flat flat on your face as lean over too far backward.

Timely Comments From the Editor

Rep. Forrest Harness of Indiana's fifth congressional district has brought new "honor" to the great Hoosier state—he was used by Columnist Raymond Clapper as one of the extremes in Congressmen to be avoided. Making a plea for senators and representatives who would "do right" by the folks at home, Clapper wrote: "In other days, a senator or representative was chosen as a man of consequence in his community and in whom his neighbors had confidence. One of the best examples was Senator Borah. His constituents were proud to sponsor him so that to a large degree he exercised his judgment as to what seemed best for the country. At the other extreme is the Indiana congressman who a few years ago voted for the Townsend old age pension plan, although at the same time he told his banker he was against it and regarded it as un-sound. To hit somewhere between those two extremes is about as much as we can hope for. Clapper did not call the "Indiana congressman" by name. But remembering "Burrhead" vote and his letter to the Kokomo banker, it's not difficult to guess to whom Clapper referred.

Col. Robert McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, announced the other day that he was not going to be a candidate for president, which must be a bitter disappointment to the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee which had been supporting him. But the colonel says he has a much bigger and more important job to do. He said he is doing it very well too. "It would be a great mistake for me to give up the activity which has proven to be useful to undertake one of uncertain value to my country," he says. Although the colonel assumes he is doing a useful job, and he is, he wanted to run for the presidency, we are glad to see him admit with modesty that there might be some question about how valuable he would be to the country as a president. A lot of us have our ideas on that.

The Richmond News comes out with a new angle on the phony South American "report" made by Senator Hugh Butler in Reader's Digest. The News discloses that the gentleman who went along with the senator on his trip, who probably did the actual writing, was an "editorial consultant" for the Reader's Digest, previous "for many years a feature writer for Bertie McCormick's Chicago Tribune and still a McCormick stooge." That would tend to clear up a lot of things.

Remember not many weeks ago how some of the newspapers boomed General MacArthur for President raised a howl when OWI sent a shipment of lapel buttons bearing President Roosevelt's picture to the Arabs? The inscription was in Arabic, too, you'll probably recall. Just how these buttons could have been used as "fourth-term campaign material" as the G.O.P. papers charged, we fail to understand, since the Arabs aren't going to be voting in our election—as to the Arabs? The inscription was in Arabic, too, you'll probably recall. Just how these buttons could have been used as "fourth-term campaign material" as the G.O.P. papers charged, we fail to understand, since the Arabs aren't going to be voting in our election—as to the Arabs? The inscription was in Arabic, too, you'll probably recall. 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FDR SUPPORTS SOLDIERS VOTE

Lucas Sees Passage Of Adequate Message Early In Session

Washington, Dec. 31.—As criticism of the Senate's "states' rights" soldier vote action grew, and objections of service men themselves were added to the mass protest against disenfranchising those in the armed forces, President Roosevelt this week made an appeal that federal machinery be provided to permit every serviceman to cast a ballot in major elections next year.

The President's statement was made during a regular press conference, and the conference was followed closely by a long meeting with Senator Scott Lucas (D., Ill.), sponsor of the soldiers' vote bill defeated in the Senate.

Lucas predicted after the meeting with Roosevelt that Congress would act early next year to provide all troops with a federal ballot.

He said he was more than ever convinced the substitute bill would not work and that more effective machinery must be provided if the millions of servicemen are not to be deprived of their vote next year.

"There are, for instance, 102 counties in Illinois alone," Lucas said. "The physical job of distributing complete ballots for each of the 102 counties in my state would be impossible, and it translated on a national scale an effort to handle the balloting by states with a shipping problem that would dwarf even the Christmas mail."

Mr. Roosevelt's statement and his discussion with Lucas was believed to indicate the White House is ready to intervene directly in the congressional soldier vote battle.

The presidential statement of policy is expected to provide a new rallying point for supporters of a federal ballot mechanism when hearings are opened, shortly after Congress reconvenes.

H. R. Knickerbocker, noted war correspondent, has been asking some of the boys at the front how they felt about their right to vote. Pvt. Milton C. Clarke, 28, Indianapolis, Ind., summed it up when he told Knickerbocker in a mud hole in Italy.

"I would like to vote for the folks at home, but mostly I would rather vote for the President. I reckon 90 per cent of the soldiers would vote for President Roosevelt. After all, we are winning, not losing."

Private Nathan Zwilling, 36, of New York, said "Yes, we ought to have the right to express our opinion whether the war program is being carried out right," and Pfc. Clarence Key, 24, Winfield, Ala., said "Yes, we are over here in Italy. We ought to have the say so about who is going to be in office when we get back."

Knickerbocker wrote: "Away up the mountain, a handsome, grizzled man with two stars on his shoulders, a famous name and commanding an even more famous outfit, cut it short: 'That's what we are fighting for the right to govern ourselves. I remember, too, in the last war, when they put prohibition over on us. There may be some difficulty in administering the vote, but the War Department can solve it. My answer is decidedly yes.'"

After checking with Americans in the famous Fifth Army, Knickerbocker wrote this paragraph as a summary of their expressions: "If President Roosevelt runs for re-election he can't lose. And if Congress fails to give U. S. soldiers serving abroad the right to vote in the next election, the congressmen responsible will find that sooner or later they can't win against the United States servicemen."

Knickerbocker declared that soldiers and officers were "puzzled and discouraged and some of them bitter when they learned through Stars and Stripes that congressional wrangling over methods of giving absentee servicemen the right to vote might deprive them of that right."

Stars and Stripes, the soldiers' own newspaper, declared: "Many observers believe that the substitute Senate measures will mean the death of any appreciable soldier vote, since most soldiers will be stopped by the red tape surrounding absentee voting in most states, their ignorance of where and to whom to write for voting information and by just plain uncertainty as to whether they are qualified to vote or not."

A Chicagoan, Lt. Burt Stern, 26, told Knickerbocker: "How can they dare to keep us from voting? We are fighting for them, aren't we? We should have some say so. I demand the right to vote for President Roosevelt again."

Corporal Joseph Strubling, Negro, 22, Pittsburgh, Pa., said: "I want

WAR BONDS in action



When you buy War Bonds your money goes into action at once. Where, we may never know. Maybe, as shown above, to equip a company of American Rangers marching up a railroad somewhere on the Mediterranean. Whether they come back depends upon the equipment we send. Give your dollars action; Buy More War Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Department

the right to vote just so we can vote him (President Roosevelt) back in office—he is just like Abraham Lincoln crossing the stream."

Many soldiers said that the Senate was deliberately attempting to prevent our expedition armies from voting because they would vote for President Roosevelt. Knickerbocker declared service men are overwhelmingly for service men because "they see with their own eyes what a magnificent job the administration has done in organizing, equipping and leading the armed forces."

Capt. Charles Swanberg, Long Beach, Calif., said: "A lot of men are more politically conscious here than at home. If you take away the right to vote from such a large army as ours, you disenfranchise the major part of the electorate."

Germany Will Try Allied War Criminals

London, Dec. 31.—Nazi broadcasts suggested today that British and American fliers who raided Nurnberg and Hamburg would be the first Allied prisoners tried by Germany as "war criminals" in retaliation for the hanging of three German officers after the Kharkov war trial in Russia.

The controlled Oslo radio warned that future "Anglo-American terror pilots who drop bombs purposely on residential districts of German towns will receive appropriate punishment."

A Paris broadcast heard by the London Daily Mail listening post reported that airmen who participated in attacks on the arms and transportation center of Nurnberg would be the first to be placed on trial on charges of violating international law in bombing "women and children."

German Judge In Charge.

Radio Berlin ignored Nurnberg, however, and instead emphasized that Anglo-American airmen who attacked Hamburg would be arraigned with civilian women and children as witnesses against them.

"German judges will examine witnesses—both pilots and mothers and children of Hamburg—coolly and objectively," the Berlin broadcast said.

British and American planes all but blasted Hamburg, Germany's second city, off the map with 9,000 tons of bombs July 24-Aug. 2.

Only British planes raided Nurnberg, the last time with 1,500 tons of explosives the night of Aug. 27.

An Oslo radio commentator, following up the Nazi propaganda line that the United States and Britain must share responsibility with Russia for the executions at Kharkov because of the "Tehran agreement," said Germany would "apply the method of holding the individual soldier responsible to British and American pilots now in our hands."

"Germany now regards herself as entitled to establish by legally unobjectionable methods whether the crews of British and American planes are guilty of war crimes," he said. "To establish such proof, since British and American bomber crews dropped phosphorus incendiary bombs purposely on residential districts, should not be difficult."

GETS SILVER WINGS.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A 19-year-old bride wore a pair of silver wings today as a Christmas present dropped by a bomber by her husband as he flew to a destination overseas. Lt. Adam Pyzma dropped the wings and a farewell note as he flew near their home enroute from his base at Grand Island, Neb. The note and the wings, tied to a handkerchief formed into a miniature parachute, were found in a thicket by two hunters, who delivered them to Mrs. Pyzma.

CONSUMER POINT VALUES FOR MEAT, FATS, FISH AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

No. 10—EFFECTIVE Jan. 2, 1944

BEEF			VEAL			PORK			FATS, OILS, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS		
Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.	Points per lb.
STEWKS			STEWKS AND CHOPS			STEWKS AND CHOPS			STEWKS AND CHOPS		
Porterhouse	9	Loins (or roasts)	8	Center Chops	7	Lard	2	Shortening	2	Butter	16
Tri-Tip	9	Ribs (or roasts)	7	End Chops	3	Salad and Cooking	5	Margarine	5	Butter	16
Chub	9	Shoulder Chops	7	Tenderloin	3	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Rib—10-inch cut	7	Round Steak (or roasts)	10	Ham, bone in, sliced	3	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Rib—7-inch cut	8	Sirloin Steak or Chops	10	Bellies, fresh and cured only	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Sirloin	8	ROASTS	4	ROASTS	4	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Sirloin—boneless	10	Rump and Sirloin—bone in	4	Loins—whole, half, or end cuts	4	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Round (full cut)	10	Rump and Sirloin—boneless	6	Loins—center cuts	5	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Top Round	10	Leg (whole or part)	6	Ham—whole or half	5	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Bottom Round	10	Shoulder—bone in, neck off	5	Ham—butt end	5	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Round Tip	10	Shoulder—boneless, neck off	5	Ham—shank end	5	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Chuck (blade or arm)	10	STEWES AND OTHER CUTS	2	Ham—boneless, whole or half	6	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
Flank	10	Breast—bone in	2	Ham—boneless, slices	6	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Breast—boneless	2	Shoulder—whole or shank half (picnic) bone in	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Flank Meat	2	Shoulder—shank half (picnic) boneless (piece or slices)	4	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2	Shoulder—butt half (Boston butt)—bone in (piece or slices)	4	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2	Shoulder—butt half (Boston butt)—boneless (piece or slices)	4	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2	Other Pork Cuts	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2	Fat Backs and Clear Plates	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2	Hocks	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2	Jowls, Jowl butts or squares	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2	Knuckles	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2	Plates, regular	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2	Spareribs	2	Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2			Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2			Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2			Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—boneless	2			Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
		Neck—bone in	2			Butter	16	Butter	16	Butter	16
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THE POST-DEMOCRAT

A Democratic weekly newspaper representing the Democrats of Muncie, Delaware County and the 14th Congressional District. The only Democratic Newspaper in Delaware County.

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MRS. GEO. R. DALE, Publisher
916 West Main Street

Muncie, Indiana, Friday, December 31, 1943

Uncontrolled Inflation

The grim tragedy of inflation is about to unfold in Washington while an apathetic people watch the unscrupulous profiteer coerce Congress into fielding to their proficiencies. The arch-culprits in this travesty are the Republican party and a group of southern Democrats led by Cotton E. Smith. Our own Republican representatives from Indiana have contributed wholeheartedly to this debacle.

When one recollects the 1942 pledges of the Republican party in regard to eliminating the present waste and providing for a sound domestic war policy, their betrayal to the forms of inflation become appalling. No political justification or diatribe can dissipate the fact that the entire Republican minority threw its weight into the defeat of the subsidy program. Why did they do it? Because the defeat of the subsidy payments means a defeat for the New Deal and naturally this aim becomes the primary object of the Republican party. In their small stature the Republicans in congress would rather defeat Roosevelt than Hitler or Hirohito. The war will still be on when the 1944 elections roll around and a country writhing in the throes of inflation will become eager for a change that might hold out hope for a GOP resuscitation.

The only flaw is that the people might find out who betrayed them into their chaotic state. But they are still firm believers in Jim Watson's theory that collectively the people of this nation are a group of damned fools.

The Republicans in Congress like to make their constituents believe the President is to blame for all this increase in costs of living. If you think this is true, watch what will happen when and if the Republicans win the next election! The leadership expected by the people of the Republican party has been sadly lacking. The desire to "get" the New Deal, forget the war and the interests of the common man seems to predominate the ambitions of Mr. Harrison Spangler and the Old Guard still ruling the Republican roost. —Connersville Tribune.

—V—

Legislative Bungling

The incompetency of the last session of the state legislature has become so noticeable that even The Indianapolis Star, one of the state's leading Republican papers, comes out with a statement that the session, as viewed by old-time legislators, "will establish a record for the enactment of defective laws."

The previous session, in 1941, made a scornful record for itself when, under the domination of a few radical leaders, it devoted almost the entire 61 days to the passage of laws designed to strip Governor Schriker of all appointive power. The supreme court later invalidated these laws, on the theory that the constitution gives to any governor a measure of authority that the legislature cannot destroy.

In a brief survey of the 1943 session, Staff Writer Maurice Early of The Star lists several important laws that are ineffective because of carelessness in drawing them up. Included in his list are laws protecting home builders from faulty work; the appointment of a state attendance officer; regulation of nursing homes; counting of primary ballots; placing records of births and deaths in the office of county clerks; voters' registration.

Mentioned, of course, are only defects so far discovered. Numerous others will no doubt stand the test of courts. Among the latter, presumably, is one which doubles legislators' salaries.

Let's remember these things the next time some campaign orator or editor pulls the old brag about "Republican efficiency."—Pulaski County Democrat.

—V—

About Federal Employees

Now that the Presidential campaign is starting to warm up, you'll be hearing a lot, from GOP orators, about how the New Deal bureaucracy has multiplied the number of federal employees. When President Roosevelt took office, you'll be told, there were 370,000 government employees, and now there are more than 3,000,000. The implication that the campaign orators will try to leave is that the 2,500,000 new employees are snoopers into, and regulating, your private affairs.

Just for the record, you might make a note of this: The War Department now has 1,243,236 civilian employees (it was 1,355,000 a month ago) and the Navy Department has 616,634. These "bureaucrats" are making guns, tanks, bullets and ships in Army ordnance plants and Navy yards, or doing clerical work that releases enlisted soldiers and sailors for military duty. And the big round figures that you will hear cited, include also 320,000 postal employees, a figure that is higher than it used to be because of heavy war-time use of the mails.

Soldiers and the Constitution

Some senators, having voted to deny fighting men effective opportunity to take part in the 1944 election, seek to justify themselves with the argument that federal machinery to gather soldiers' votes would be unconstitutional. The argument is strictly a phony, and any sensible soldier can see the fraud a mile away.

Congress has enacted legislation which prevents the filing of civil lawsuits against soldiers in state courts. Congress has also prohibited cities and states from collecting taxes owed by absent servicemen. Congress has decreed that mortgages cannot be foreclosed or contracts terminated at the expense of a man whose military service renders him incapable of meeting these obligations.

Such legislation has rightly been upheld by the Supreme Court as a proper protection of the soldier's civil rights while he is absent in the service of his country. Are we to tell the serviceman that we can constitutionally protect all his rights except the right to vote?

In this case, as in many others, the constitutional issue is raised to conceal the true source of opposition to the measure in question. The Lucas-Green bill which the Senate killed last week introduced no new element whatever into our electoral system except a practical means of enabling states to get ballots to and from men in the armed forces. The right to challenge them would still have been left in state hands. All that this bill did was to make it possible for the soldier ballots to be cast and speedily brought back home—something which cannot be done by 48 separate absentee ballot laws.

We'd like to be present some time when a Senator who voted against the Lucas-Green bill tries to explain to a serviceman why the latter has a constitutional right to vote but no constitutional means of exercising it. —Chicago Sun.

—V—

Both Sides of the Street?

Alf Landon goes to Washington last week and lets loose a blast against the Moscow Declarations. He warns the Republicans against endorsing them.

Then he hops a train to New York and has a wonderful session with Tom Dewey; calls him the best candidate for President, and so on. Dewey laps it up, smiling.

But Landon's sour comments on Moscow cause a scandal in Republican circles.

So up hops Herbert Hoover (wherever you find Landon or Dewey, you find Hoover, sooner or later), and Mr. Hoover issues a statement explaining that Mr. Landon wasn't really against the Moscow declarations. It's an odd statement, because, first Mr. Landon certainly sounded as if he was against the Moscow Declarations, and, second, why can't Mr. Landon speak for himself? What is he, Jo-Jo, the Two-Headed Boy, that he needs somebody to stand up in front of him and tell the public what he's all about?

Meanwhile, John O'Donnell, the isolationist New York Daily News' isolationist writer, whips out a piece praising—whom do you think? Why both Dewey and Landon, of course.

And so we came to the main questions of this piece. Is Tom Dewey playing both sides of the street? Is he really so lacking in fervor on his international convictions, whatever they may be, that he is satisfied to be the beneficiary of this type of politics? Is he playing the game of Landon and Hoover? We will write it down that he is, unless he dissociates himself from them, specifically and promptly.—New York Post.

—V—

"Insurance Trust" Shows Its Hand

The "Insurance Trust" has launched a campaign against the liberalized social security program proposed in the Wagner-Dingell bill, now before both Houses of Congress. That bill is an exceedingly conservative measure, but it is a step in advance. It increases old-age pensions and other benefits to a reasonable degree.

The "Insurance Trust" is fighting it because it fears Uncle Sam will enter its field and make it impossible for the "trust" to continue to garner the exorbitant profits it is now pocketing.

Only last week C. O. Pauley, secretary of the Great Northern Life Insurance Company, told delegates to the annual convention of the Farm Bureau Federation that the Wagner-Dingell bill must be killed because it had as its "ultimate goal the Federalizing of all insurance."

Clearly, if the Wagner-Dingell bill is to be saved, those who would benefit from its provisions must wake up. Every candidate for the House and Senate in next year's election should be asked to state definitely his position on this measure. It has been before Congress for months, and members should be prepared to decide for or against it.

—V—

Rep. Wilson Writes Home

We were very much interested to read the weekly letter to his constituents written by Rep. Earl Wilson, Indiana Republican, and published in some Indiana newspapers. Rep. Wilson was making an appeal for cooperation with the war program and said one way to help would be to avoid use of travel facilities, particularly during the Christmas holidays. From the same letter, we quote: "Indiana is near enough that I hope to have about a week at home."

Votes for Soldiers

The United States Senate votes 42 to 37, killing the Servicemen's Absentee Voting bill, and refers the program to the states. Why?

There is no guarantee that President Roosevelt will run for reelection next year but there is a recognized possibility. If he does run, he will get a considerable majority of the soldier vote. That is the principal reason why the bill was killed.

What can or will the states do? In 24 states voters must register in person. Soldiers away from home, particularly those in foreign lands, cannot register in person. Many failed to do so before they left home. Soldiers who have become of voting age since enlisting are, of course not registered.

In 35 states absentee votes must be in the hands of election officials not later than election day, and in 13 states only 30 days are allowed between the time applications can be made for absentee ballots and the return date. Other states have various restrictive laws automatically affecting the voting of men and women in the armed services.

It is seen that there would have to be special sessions of many state legislatures to amend existing election laws or pass new ones opening the way for those in the armed services to vote at the next general election. It is a foregone conclusion that a number of states will not arrange for these special elections. In others the proposal may be defeated or passed in such form as to make it impossible for the servicemen and women to vote.

It is the suspicion of the enemies of President Roosevelt that a considerable majority of the servicemen and women would be inclined to vote for Roosevelt as their Commander-in-Chief, feeling that his continuation in office for the duration of the war would be most desirable. Limited surveys indicate that. The only actual figures available on such past elections are found in an analysis of the soldier vote for Lincoln. He was 53 per cent of the popular vote but 77 per cent of the soldier vote.

So there you have it—the principal reason why the Senate side-stepped the Green-Lucas Servicemen's Absentee Voting bill and moved to pass the obligation to the states. It is a political device to deprive a great number of servicemen and women of the franchise in the next election so that the President could not have an advantage.

The rights of the servicemen and women are thus not only disregarded but are denied them while they are away from home giving everything they have and offering their lives in defense of their country. It is a political device as low as any used in the worst voting precincts in the country.

The Senate is going to hear about this as soon as the armed servicemen and women get the news. They will be powerless to do much more than lodge their protests with their families at home. If the members of their families feel as bitter about it as the men and women in the services will, it may act as a boomerang against the senators who voted for it.

We can no better voice our opinion than Senator Barkley did when he said that the Senate action "will have no more effect in giving the soldiers the vote than a pious resolution passed by the ladies' aid or some Rotary club," and Senator Guffey who said, "The idea of depriving the soldier of his right to vote when he is willing to die for his country is beyond patriotic and human understanding."

—V—

What Says 'The Zeitung' Now?

When is "The Zeitung" going to read Walter E. Helmke and the Republican county central committee out of the party for endorsing Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York for the G.O.P. nomination for president? Tom is the man who went "to Downing street by way of Wall street." He is the fellow whose "stuff just won't wash." Remember?

Early last September, about the time of the Mackinac Island conference, Gov. Dewey came out in favor of a permanent military alliance between the United States and Great Britain. Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, immediately "blew his top." So did his Little Sir Echo here in Fort Wayne.

Here is part of what Col. McCormick said in the Tribune about Dewey on that occasion:

"Now he has finished the pilgrimage to Downing street by way of Wall street. He has been brought and has been bought by the prospect of millions for his campaign fund from New York bankers, but he has lost the millions of votes of New York Republicans as surely as he has lost the support of voters in the more American states. They now have no recourse but to repudiate him as a deserter."

Col. McCormick is one of the nation's leading authorities on "isolationism" and "internationalism." He can't be wrong about such things. Little Sir Echo has always had an abiding faith in him. Little Sir Echo has always said "Me too."

Has Mr. Helmke then "finished the pilgrimage to Downing street by way of Wall street?"

Two or three days after the Tribune's blast at Dewey, "The Zeitung", on September 10, 1943, also wrote an editorial smearing Dewey. It pictured him as a little worse than Benedict Arnold, George III and Jefferson Davis all rolled into one. In the course of its remarks it let out this powerfully sar-

castic snort: "No, Dewey's stuff just won't wash!"

Now we should like to ask whether Helmke's "stuff just won't wash" either?

Maybe "The Zeitung" is ready to make good on its third party threats. Or maybe it is ready to come in off another limb and eat another dish of crow. Maybe it has looked at little Tom and decided that "Small Fry" should stick together, crow or no crow.

—V—

A War Profits Grab

Is it good business, or smart politics, to throw out the window an administrative practice which has saved the government five billion dollars? That is what the what the Senate finance committee proposes to do in emasculating renegotiation of war contracts. Its amendments to the tax bill are so destructive of sound renegotiation that the War and Navy departments are reported to prefer open abandonment of the policy.

When the polysyllabic words surrounding this matter are shucked down, the issue of renegotiation comes to this: Shall the government, in dealing with big business, have the right to fix fair prices for the war material it buys? Because many costs were unknown, because production had to be started in a hurry, because only experience could furnish a basis for judgment, it was impossible to fix fair prices accurately in every case beforehand. So the government reserved the right to renegotiate—that is, to reduce prices to the point where they yielded a fair profit, but no more.

Most business went along with this idea. Contracts set prices high enough to cover contingencies, on the theory that the excess could be recovered by renegotiation. Now some businessmen want to eliminate renegotiation. It's a neat trick if you can do it.

Inevitably, in such a vast enterprise as total war, individual cases of injustice arose. To allow for these, the House amended the law in numerous respects. It exempted all small contractors (those doing less than \$500,000 government business a year), and gave the procurement agencies discretionary authority to exempt standard products where competitive conditions had been restored.

But this was not enough for the Senate committee. Under intense pressure from big business, the committee voted to make the "standard products" exemption mandatory. That greatly narrowed the area of renegotiation, and left outside it the whole shipbuilding industry, machine tools, much tank and airplane construction, and many other businesses. Furthermore, the committee would order the procurement agencies to consider, in whatever renegotiation would be left, profits after taxes—which is like requiring a man to pay higher prices for a suit at one store because it paid more taxes than another.

Those who see the danger in war profiteering will hope that the Senate rejects its committee's recommendations. Corporate profits, as the Department of Commerce reported last week, have reached an all-time record of eight billion dollars after taxes. A war profits grab would hurt nobody more than business itself. Sound renegotiation, flexible enough to avoid injustice to small contractors, must be maintained.—Chicago Sun.

—V—

Cotton Ed's No Democrat

It was all—or almost all—a mistake. Senator Ellison D. (Cotton Ed) Smith, testy, dyed-in-the-cotton reactionary of South Carolina, wasn't talking about a third-party movement when he sounded off recently in the Senate.

He now explains he meant a movement within the party back to the "old Democratic fold."

We don't know exactly what that involves. But we do know that Cotton Ed's record is enough to condemn almost anything he advocates.

A Roosevelt-hater (except when he stood for re-election and clung to the President's coat-tails), he led the fight against the anti-lynching bill, fought the conscription bill to prepare the country to defend itself, opposed formation of the WAC and the WAVE. On virtually every liberal measure, he has been on the "No" side.

His "Democratic fold" might include such Senators as Bailey, of North Carolina; Byrd, of Virginia, or Representatives Rankin, of Mississippi, and "Goobar" Cox, of Georgia. But not Carter Glass, who certainly is one of the "old Democratic fold." The aged Virginian, long absent from the Senate by reason of illness, did not hesitate to show up Cotton Ed on the Green-Lucas bill. That's the measure which would have guaranteed the vote to our fighting men under federal responsibility.

In a letter to Senator Lucas, Glass scolded the phony cry that the measure violated states' rights, pointing out that the bill really would have established no precedent, as Congress more than a year ago passed Public Law No. 712, providing:

No member of the armed forces is compelled either to register or pay a poll tax to vote in a federal election.

That cut the ground from under the 'states' rights gang"—the Cotton Eds as well as the illiberal Northern Republicans. It showed they were playing a snide game of politics, that their purpose was, and is, to prevent the soldiers from voting.

Cotton Ed prates of the "Democratic fold." His fold can't use that name. It is too hostile to democracy.

GAS

Is an economical servant in the home. It is also serving as a vital part in war production. Be patriotic. Help conserve gas by keeping your present equipment in good repair for higher efficiency.

Central Ind. Gas Co.

LONDON SCORNS BIG 3 PARLEY

Old Guard Republicans Grope For Chance To Belittle FDR

How it sears the souls of anti-administrators to realize that President Roosevelt is one of the three biggest men in the world today, perhaps the biggest. That has been revealed again, and is automatically accepted by all realistic people since the meetings of the Big Three—or Four—in Europe and Africa.

With wrinkled brows and suppressed groans the Old Guard Republicans, busy trying to produce a candidate for president to run next time, grope desperately for a chance to belittle the meetings. There will be statements and observations along this line, but the first we have heard comes from former Governor Alf Landon of Kansas, one time Republican candidate for president.

It is a lame attempt to disparage in which Landon warns the Republicans against endorsing Roosevelt's collaboration with Stalin "until we know all the facts about the Moscow conference." Of course the Republicans are not going to know all the facts for a long time to come, because many of the facts must be kept secret lest the enemy profit by knowing of them. So, if Landon's advice is followed, the Republicans will not endorse the conference.

Landon has a habit of making foolish statements that react against him and his party. He did that near the end of his campaign when he was running against Roosevelt. He came out against Social Security. Nearly everyone was for it and the result was that Landon turned many votes away from himself and to Roosevelt.

As the days pass one is impressed with the fact that the Old Guard reactionaries have no other weapons with which to fight than baseless criticism, senseless abuse and false representations. The leaders are using every variety of statements, among them the uttering of half truths, the most vicious form of untruths. They deplore the fact that great sums have been spent in some instances and infer that was a misuse of money. They do not explain that it was eminently proper and highly beneficial to our cause that they be so spent, and they carefully refrain from mentioning the fact that we got full value received. This is just one of many instances of misrepresentation by presentation of a half-truth and a half-untruth in the same breath.

Watch the press, for there will be forthcoming statements casting doubt if not reflections upon the efforts of the conferees at the Moscow, Tehran and Cairo conferences. The critics are desperately searching their brains now for something to say. They are going to infer that we have gone Communist, that we have sold our birthright as a nation to Britain, that we have bowed to the will of the heathen Asiatics and have made alliances and assumed obligations that will bankrupt us for a thousand years. They will take the epochal declaration at the conclusion of the Tehran conference and try to shoot it full of holes; they will say that we are adopting a plan of operations against the Japanese that will prove disastrous to us. They will make other even more foolish and low-rating statements, all directed at the head of the President.

It makes no difference if the course of the war and the completeness of the victory depend largely upon the things agreed to and accomplished at the conferences. The desperate critics desire nothing else but to discredit the man who is supplying the greater part of the wisdom that is necessary to win the victory and the peace.

There is nothing so soul-searing as to realize that one is littler than the man he hates.

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Will Retain Low Meat Ration Values

Washington, Dec. 31.—Low December ration point values on meat will be retained through January due to relatively large civilian supplies of meat, the Office of Price Administration announced today.

January point values on cheese and other brown-stamp foods will also be the same, the OPA said, with butter listed again at 16 points per pound.

The only changes on meat involve fresh hams, raised one point for January to eliminate the present differential in fresh and smoked hams, and sliced dried beef and beef tongue and sliced beef tongue. Sliced dried beef will be cut two points to 12 points per pound in January, and sliced beef tongue will be reduced two points to six points per pound. Unsliced beef tongue will be at three points, down one.

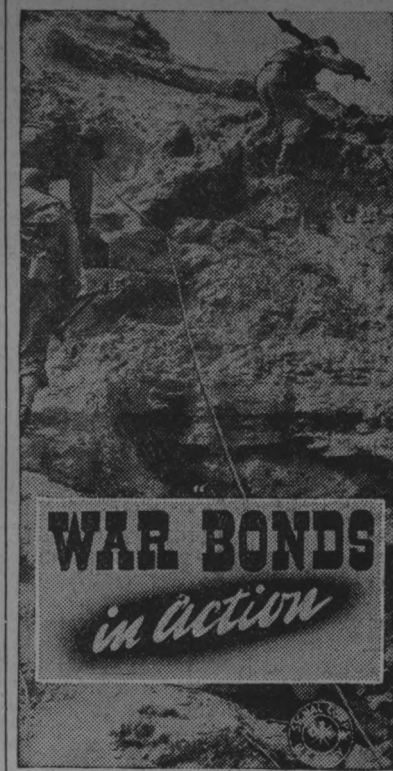
Point values for all other brown stamp foods remain the same.

The OPA said that ability to retain brown stamp values at present levels is due to a demand for most brown stamp foods that is closely in line with available supplies.

CITY DRIVES ON RATS

Silverton, Ore. — The city of Silverton has begun a campaign to rid itself of rats. Free poison will be furnished citizens and town officials are placing the bait themselves.

Washington — Nine vice-presidents have become United States President; three by election, six



Over the top in Italy! One more ridge, one more mile on the road to Berlin.

As in victorious military campaigns, people on the home front must sacrifice to provide all the sinews of war. One of these is the regular purchase of War Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Department

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